

Attorney Docket No. YO999-369REMARKS

The present application was filed on June 8, 2000 with claims 1-20. Claims 2, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 20 have been canceled and claims 1, 3-8, 11-15, 18 and 19 remain pending. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 13 have been amended and claims 1, 6 and 13 are the pending independent claims.

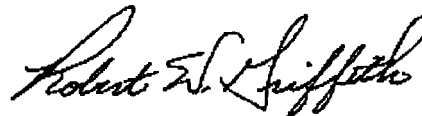
Applicant acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-5, 10 and 17.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6 and 13 so that they recite the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 2, 10 and 17, respectively, in an effort to expedite the application through to issuance. Claims 2, 9, 10, 16 and 17 have been canceled because their limitations are now recited in their respective independent claims. Claim 3 has been amended to correct the dependency from claim 2 to claim 1.

The Examiner has also indicated that dependent claims 3-5 are allowable. Additionally, dependent claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 6 and 13. Applicant asserts that the amendments presented do not necessitate a new search or raise issues of new matter.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that claims 1, 3-8, 11-15, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: July 29, 2005

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